AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) In a telecommunication system, a method of ~~providing a user with~~ retrieving data from a digital switching system, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving raw switch data ~~output~~ from a digital switch, wherein the raw switch data is used for testing and maintenance of the digital switch;

via a converter, converting said raw switch data into a format compatible with a predefined spreadsheet program; and

outputting converted data to and storing said converted data in at least one predefined workbook of said spreadsheet program.

2. (Original) The method in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

prior to said receiving, converting and outputting steps, installing said digital switch; and

performing said receiving, converting and outputting steps as part of a New Product Introduction test.

3. (Original) The method in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

prior to said receiving, converting and outputting steps, installing said digital switch; and

performing said receiving, converting and outputting steps as part of a Customer Acceptance test.

4. (Previously amended) The method in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

using the output of said converter as a layout, preparing scripts containing Database Modification Commands;

transferring said scripts to said digital switch; and

via said digital switch, executing said scripts to modify a switch database associated with the raw switch data.

5. (Previously amended) The method in Claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

using the output of said converter as a layout, preparing scripts containing Database Modification Commands;

transferring said scripts to said digital switch; and

via said digital switch, executing said scripts to modify a switch database associated with the raw switch data.

6. (Previously amended) The method in Claim 3 further comprising the steps of:

using the output of said converter as a layout, preparing scripts containing Database Modification Commands;

transferring said scripts to said digital switch; and

via said digital switch, executing said scripts to modify a switch database associated with the raw switch data.

7. (Currently amended) In a telecommunication system, an apparatus for ~~providing a user with~~ retrieving data from a digital switching system, said apparatus comprising:

a data receiver adapted to receive raw switch data from a digital switch, wherein the raw switch data is used for testing and maintenance of the digital switch;

a data converter coupled to said data receiver, said data converter adapted to convert said raw switch data into a format compatible with a predefined spreadsheet program; and

a data output device coupled to an output of said data converter, said data output device adapted to transmit and store converted data to at least one predefined workbook of said spreadsheet program.

8. (Original) The apparatus in Claim 7 wherein the operation of said data receiver, data converter and data output device are adapted to be triggered via a user's "Make Workbook" Command.

9. (Previously presented) The method in Claim 1 wherein the raw switch data includes at least one of hardware change data, software change data, switching activity data, testing data, troubleshooting data, and new product installation data.

10. (Previously presented) The method in Claim 1 wherein the raw switch data includes recent change and verify data.

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus in Claim 7 wherein the raw switch data includes at least one of hardware change data, software change data, switching activity data, testing data, troubleshooting data, and new product installation data.

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus in Claim 7 wherein the raw switch data includes recent change and verify data.

13. (New) The method in Claim 1 wherein the raw switch data is stored by the digital switch in a switch database to keep track of switching activities associated with the digital switch.

14. (New) The apparatus in Claim 7 wherein the raw switch data is stored by the digital switch in a switch database to keep track of switching activities associated with the digital switch.